

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCCT-01 AID-05 CCO-00

FBO-02 NIC-01 OPR-01 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SY-04

SCS-03 OC-05 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 NEA-09 IO-10 OCL-00

/108 W

----- 103180

O R 090940Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3070

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

DIRNSA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0023

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, ET

SUBJECT: BOMBING OF USIS LIBRARY IN ASMARA

REF ASMARA 0021 (NOTAL)

1. ON 8 JAN THREE HAND GRENADES THROWN THRU GLASS DOOR OF USIS
LIBRARY AT 1900 HRS CLOSING TIME. NO INURIES FROM EXPLOSION.
NIGHT GUARD STILL BEING HELD BY POLICE FOR QUESTIONING.

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2. I RETURNED TO LIBRARY WITH MARINE NCOIC FOR FURTHER IN-

VESTIGATION THIS MORNING. USIS ASST LIBRARIAN, WHO WAS TALKING WITH NIGHT GUARD OUTSIDE LIBRARY AT TIME OF ATTACK, SAID TWO MEN ON FOOT FIRED SHOTS, THREW GRENADES THRU THE DOOR, AND RAN. LIBRARIAN FELL TO THE GROUND AT THE SOUND OF SHOTS, WHILE NIGHT GUARD RAN IN SAME DIRECTION OF MEN WHO THREW GRENADES (LIBRARIAN THOUGHT THEY WERE ROCKS UNTIL HE HEARD EXPLOSION).

3. THIS MORNING I REQUESTED EXTRA POLICE PROTECTION FROM MAJ.

HAGOS, ASMARA POLICE SUPERINTENDENT, FOR ALL USG INSTALLATIONS. USIS HAD ROVING POLICE PROTECTION BEFORE, BUT MAJ. HAGOS WILL ASSIGN SPECIAL GUARD NOW.

4. MAAG ORDNANCE ADVISORS WHO SAW FRAGMENTS OF GRENADES IDENTIFIED THEM AS CHINESE COMMUNIST.

5. ASMARA POPULACE DOES NOT BELIEVE ELF/PLF THREW GRENADES. THEY BELIEVE IT IS WORK OF ARMY COUNTERINSURGENTS, SIMILAR TO MURDERS OF 23 DEC 75. THEY EXPLAIN THAT ELF/PLF USUALLY LEAVE A TIME BOMB IN PLACE AFTER MAIN EXPLOSION AND WOULD HAVE FIRED ONLY ONE SHOT IN AIR TO ATTRACT ATTENTION.

COMMENT: I CANNOT ELIMINATE POSSIBILITY THAT ARMY ELEMENT WOULD ATTACK USG INSTALLATIONS. BOTH PMG AND ELF/PLF BELIEVE USG IS NOT GIVING SUFFICIENT AID TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CAUSES.

6. ASMARA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS OPEN TO TRAFFIC. THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS REGARDING BOMB AT AIRPORT LAST NIGHT. CIVIL AVIATION PERSONNEL DENY KNOWLEDGE OF A BOMB, BUT MAJ. HAGOS SAID THE BOMB CAUSED ONLY MINOR DAMAGE AT AIRPORT.

7. I HELD MEETING THIS MORNING WITH CONGEN STAFF (AMERICAN AND ETHIOPIANS) TO REVIEW SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WHICH ALL PERSONNEL SHOULD TAKE. WILL HOLD MEETING WITH KAGNEW STATION PERSONNEL TOMORROW.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, LIBERATION FRONTS, POLICE PROTECTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASMARA00023
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750008-0966
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750167/aaaacgtq.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ASMARA 0021
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOMBING OF USIS LIBRARY IN ASMARA
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, ET
To: STATE ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006